

110 said stop and said winding mechanism share common structure.

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### REMARKS

The specification, drawings, abstract and claims have been amended to address the Examiner's rejections, incorporate the Examiner's suggestions, and to place the application in better form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for providing suggestions.

With this Amendment Applicant is also submitting a new Declaration properly identifying the present application. Applicant notes that the Examiner questions the filing date. It is Applicant's position that the filing date of the priority document is July 7, 1998 as indicated in the Declaration. Applicant notes that a corresponding European patent application has been published with serial number EP 0 970 596. This European patent application indicates that the priority date is also July 7, 1998.


With this Amendment Applicant is adding new claims 37-39. It is Applicant's position that these claims clearly set forth the structure of the present invention and are in compliance with U.S. patent regulations. In particular claim 37 sets forth a stop connected to the housing which blocks separation of the spool from the housing during winding of cutting line by the winding mechanism. This stop feature is an important feature of the present invention and overcomes the problems in the prior art. A significant problem in the prior art was that a spool would become separated during a winding operation, and that this separation was usually caused by the biasing force from a spring. In the prior art, winding or assembling a wound spool will therefore be difficult for the average user of the cutter. The stop of the present invention overcomes this problem and is an improvement over the prior art. Applicant notes

that claim 1 has been amended to further emphasize the feature of the stop. Applicant respectfully requests patent protection for this feature.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted  
for Applicant,

By:   
Theobald Dengler  
Registration No. 34,575  
McGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

TD:sk

Enclosures: Abstract  
New Declaration  
Letter Re: Drawing Corrections with (1) sheet  
Check for \$27.00 for three extra claims

63286.11

DATED: December 26, 2000  
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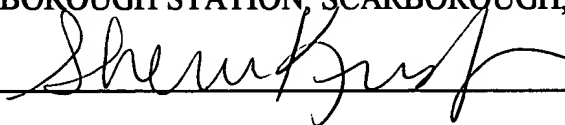
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BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherman", is written over a horizontal line.

DATE: December 26, 2000